



**A novel for our times, *First Among Nations* tackles the difficult issues of antisemitism, anti-Zionism, regional conflict, religious stereotypes, interpersonal relationships, and personal struggle through a touching and thought-provoking story.**

Zar was raised in an ultra-Orthodox neighborhood in Jerusalem. But he breaks away from this insular world to pursue his dream of playing soccer professionally. Egel, a kibbutznik, and Hajji, a Muslim, are young Israelis from very different backgrounds who share with Zar a passion for soccer. Their destinies intertwine as they become teammates on the Israel National Football Team, representing their tiny country in the World Cup. *First Among Nations* captures the sights, sounds, tumultuous history and modern realities of Israel. This inspiring novel will open your eyes and warm your heart.

## Topics for Interview and Author Talks

- Deconstructing Israel: An Intimate Look
- From the Midwest to the Middle East: Fresh Insights into Israel
- The Melting Pot of Israel: Different People from All Walks of Life
- Reaching Common Ground: The Similarities that Bring Us Together
  - *First Among Nations*: Characters, Plot, and Symbolism

**Ira Mosen, MD, is a physician who is also an avid reader. Born and raised on the East Coast, he received his medical training in an Ivy League institution and joined a private medical practice in the Midwest. After working there for nearly 15 years, he fulfilled his lifelong dream and moved with his family to Israel in 2018. Dr. Mosen works at a health clinic in central Israel which provides high-quality medical care to Israelis of all backgrounds and religions at a low cost.**



**Through his interactions with a diverse population of Israelis, he has observed an Israel that is markedly different from the one often portrayed in the media, with much grassroots desire for peaceful coexistence. These experiences inspired him to write this debut novel.**

"A wonderful and uplifting coming of age story that will resound with readers everywhere."

— **Heather Morris, Author of the New York Times #1 Bestselling Book *The Tattooist of Auschwitz***

"Mosen's depictions of life in Israel are vivid and captivating. *First Among Nations* is an excellent, thought-provoking read."

— **Senator Joseph Lieberman**

"*First Among Nations* succeeds in offering a deeper truth about the challenges of different communities in Israel. In doing so, this book also reminds us of the true story of Israel."

— **Dennis Ross, Former American Peace Envoy to the Middle East**

"The reader will come away with a much better understanding of the complexities of living in a true melting pot, the dangers of anti-Semitism, and the richness gained through understanding and appreciation for one another."

— **Phil Markwardt, Executive Director, Operation Exodus USA**

"Ira Mosen's fabulous book expertly tells the tale of the young Zionist country with its challenges in cliffhanging fashion with plenty of surprises. You won't want to put this book down!"

— **Joshua Halickman, sportsrabbi.com, Sports Columnist for The Jerusalem Post**

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